

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: David J. Steele, et al.  
Filed: Herewith  
Entitled: EXPANDING WELLBORE JUNCTION  
Group Art Unit: 3672  
Examiner: H. Dang

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As listed on the accompanying form PTO-SB-08, the Applicants hereby call the examiner's attention to the following information of which they are aware, in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56. Copies of the listed references, other than U.S. patents, are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement.

U.S. Patents: 6,283,216    5,318,122    5,330,007    5,348,095    5,388,648  
5,655,602    5,695,008    5,718,288    5,462,120    6,056,059    6,135,208  
6,336,507    6,564,867

Published U.S. Applications: 2003/0141074    2003/0178204  
2002/0023745    2002/0023753

PCT Applications: WO 99/13195    WO 99/04135    WO 02/29207  
WO 02/29208

European Application: EP 0961007

Search Report for Counterpart UK Application: GB 0309628.6

Other Documents:

Tri-State General Catalog front cover, index page 2, page 52; dated 1980-81

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3), which provides for the timely filing of an Information Disclosure Statement before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

Written notification that the listed documents have been considered in their entirety, by return of a copy of the enclosed form completed by the examiner, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.



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Dated: Jan. 19, 2004

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I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

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on JANUARY 27, 2004  
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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
Application Number		UNASSIGNED			
Filing Date		HEREWITH			
First Named Inventor		DAVID J. STEELE			
Group Art Unit		3672			
Examiner Name		H. DANG			
Attorney Docket Number		006073 U1D2 USA			
Sheet	1	of	2		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials <sup>*</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		6,283,216		OHMER	09-04-2001	
		5,318,122		MURRAY et al.	06-07-1994	
		5,330,007		COLLINS et al.	07-19-1994	
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		6,135,208		GANO	10-24-2000	
		6,336,507		COLLINS	01-08-2002	
		6,564,867		OHMER	05-20-2003	
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		2003/0178204	A1	ECHOLS	09-25-2003	
		2002/0023745	A1	GEORGE	02-28-2002	
		2002/0023753	A1	BUYTAERT	02-28-2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		WO	99/13195	A1	NOBILEAU	03-18-1999		
		WO	99/04135	A1	MARATHON OIL COMPANY	01-28-1999		
		WO	02/29207	A1	NOBILEAU	04-11-2002		
		WO	02/29208	A1	NOBILEAU	04-11-2002		
		EP	0 961 007	A2	HALLIBURTON ENERGY SERVICES	01-12-1999		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Completeness of Information</b>	
				<b>Application Number</b>	UNASSIGNED
				<b>Filing Date</b>	HEREWITH
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	DAVID J. STEELE
				<b>Group Art Unit</b>	3672
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	H. DANG
<b>Sheet</b>	2	<b>of</b>	2	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	006073 U1D2 USA

[illegible]

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